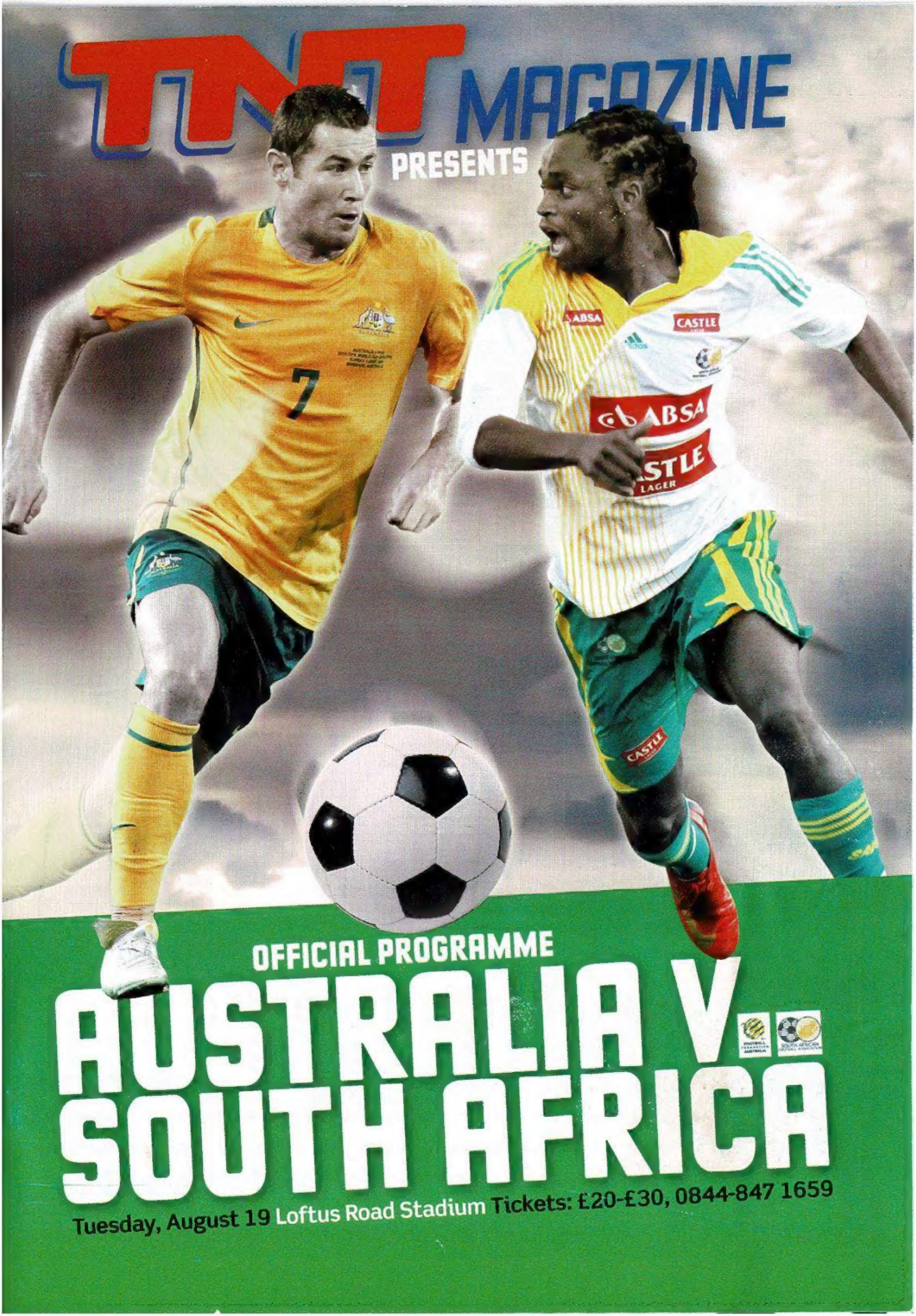
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EDITOR'S LETTER

Australian and South African sporting battles are normally reserved for the rugby fields and cricket pitches. In fact this weekend, the Springboks will take on the Wallabies in Durban, while in December the Proteas head Down Under and will attempt to unseat the reigning cricket world champions. This international friendly between the Socceroos and Bafana Bafana is another opportunity to extend the rivalry to another playing field.

Both teams are relative newcomers to the football world stage, but their efforts will be closely monitored in the next two years. Australia made its first impression in more than 30 years on the world football landscape when the Socceroos made the final 16 at the 2006 World Cup, before controversially losing to eventual cup winners Italy. On the other hand, the world now looks forward to 2010 when South Africa will play host to the biggest sporting event on the planet, the Football World Cup. Bafana Bafana will be acutely aware that while the world looks to the nation to produce a stunning tournament, South Africans will be looking to its team to produce a performance of which it can be proud.

This Loftus Road match represents a major step towards 2010 and another chapter in a great sporting rivalry. Enjoy the game.

Krysten Booth

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Joel Santana

Pim Verbeek

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WELCOME FROM FOOTBALL FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA

Thank you for attending this game between Australia and South Africa at Shepherd's Bush.

Australia moves into the fourth and crucial stage of our Fifa World Cup 2010 qualifying campaign with eight matches between September and June next year, starting with an away game against Uzbekistan in Tashkent next month.

The other members of our Asian Football Confederation group are Bahrain, Japan and Qatar.

This match against the hosts of the 2010 Fifa World Cup gives us a good opportunity to get the team together after a challenging schedule in June, which saw four World Cup qualifiers in four weeks to complete stage three.

Over the past four years, many members of the Qantas Socceroos have had little or no off season because of our international match schedule and all football fans — including me — are very appreciative of the players' time and commitment to the cause of qualifying for the 2010 Fifa World Cup.

We value and appreciate the opportunity to meet South Africa as part of our warm-up for this next stage. We are very focused on qualifying for the 2010 Fifa World Cup and being part of an exciting tournament in South Africa.

My best wishes to the teams and their staff led by Joel Santana and Pim Verbeek for this match.

Frank Lowy AC
Chairman

WELCOME FROM SOUTH AFRICAN FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Greetings from the South African Football Association (Safa). It gives me great pleasure to interact with you in anticipation of a pulsating 90 minutes of football.

South Africa and Australia are great sporting nations and our contests in sport are well documented. Tonight's international friendly match between Bafana Bafana and the Socceroos has all the attributes of an epic showdown.

Bafana Bafana's team are hard at work preparing for a big challenge ahead of us, as the host nation of the 2010 Fifa World Cup. Similarly, the same can be said of the Australian team. They are very much geared to qualifying for the coming World Cup in South Africa, and this match can only be classified as a friendly by name, but there is a lot at stake.

Our last encounter against Australia was here in London, and we lost that match 1-0. They say history has a way of repeating itself, but we have a history of staging great comebacks when it is least expected of us. We have played a number of international friendly matches in the past year and a half.

We have a great game in prospect, enjoy the ball artistry and football flair on display. Our country is ready and a warm South African welcome awaits the world from the football family, the people of South Africa and the entire African continent.

Ke nako (it's our time).

Dr Molefi Oliphant
President

2010 OR BUST

The Socceroos coach has one eye on the challenges that lie ahead

WORDS TOM STURROCK

There's plenty of pressure on Pim Verbeek. After filling Guus Hiddink's shoes as coach of the Socceroos, he is the man entrusted with taking Australia back to the World Cup finals, where they were so cruelly eliminated in the second round by the eventual 2006 winners, Italy. For Verbeek and his Socceroos, anything less than a World Cup encore will be deemed a failure.

While the focus this match will be on getting over the line against South Africa, it's hard to look at any Socceroos performance without the context of World Cup qualification.

Verbeek is a cool customer, but he knows that qualifying for the 2010 competition is all that matters.

> "Australia has to go to the World Cup — everyone understands that"

"Australia has to go to the World Cup — everyone understands that," he tells *TNT*. "That's the big event and that will be another boost for the sport."

For the first time, the Socceroos have a clear pathway to World Cup qualification — they're now part of the Asian Confederation.

Previously, their route has taken them through Oceania and then South America, but this time around, they only have to finish in the top two of a group, which includes Japan, Uzbekistan, Bahrain and Qatar.

The moment the draw was released, pundits clamoured to pencil Australia in for the 2010 finals. It was supposedly a "dream draw", but Verbeek's response has always been one of measured optimism.

"It's open — we know we're one of the favourites, but it could go any way," he says.

"People need to acknowledge the quality of Uzbekistan — they have a lot of players in the Russian leagues and we have seen that Russian football is strong. We should never underestimate them.

"And the Middle East teams are dangerous because they can have a perfect preparation, with most of their players available."

Verbeek is confident he has the squad to qualify, but points to the travel demands of the Asian group as one of the major challenges.

"The problems we face are not about personnel. We have a good choice of selection, plenty of experience," he says.

"Our biggest problem is about travelling, we have some long and difficult trips to make — but that's part of playing in Asia.

"We're starting to prepare better — we've

D.O.B. March 12, 1956
BORN Rotterdam, The Netherlands
TEAMS MANAGED
1981-84 Sparta Rotterdam
1987-89 De Graafschap
1989-91 Feyenoord Rotterdam
1992-93 FC Groningen
1994-97 Fortuna Sittard
1998-2000 Omiya Ardija
2000-02 Soutyh Korea (Asst)
2002-03 PSV Eindhoven (Res)
2003 Kyoto Purple Sanga
2004 Netherlands Antilles
2004-05 Borussia Mönchengladbach (Asst)
2005 UAE (Asst)
2005-06 South Korea (Asst)
2006-07 South Korea

Australian coach Pim Verbeek looks on during a Socceroos training session in Dubai

Verbeek leads the Socceroos' training session ahead of their Asia Zone World Cup 2010 qualifier tie against Qatar

Australia's Jason Culina takes Verbeek's advice during the World Cup qualifying match against Iraq

learnt a lot in the past six months."

The future of the code hinges on World Cup qualification.

In a sport once burdened with shoddy administration and a third-rate domestic competition torn apart by ethnic rivalries, the turnaround of football in Australia since 2006 has been remarkable.

Verbeek admits he was unsure of what awaited him when he took the coaching job Down Under, but has been impressed by what he discovered.

"When I came to Australia I knew football was not the biggest sport, but I have been very positively surprised by everything they do," Verbeek says.

"The stadiums are fantastic — there are a lot of fans and we have lots of young players. It's a very interesting league — it's still just starting and we're finding a place in Asia."

With the crucial qualifiers beginning later this year, Verbeek could be forgiven for not investing too much time and energy in the friendly against South Africa.

But he insists there is enough at stake to ensure a willing contest.

"They're Australian players — they will

AUSTRALIA'S WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS

Uzbekistan (a) — Sept 10, 2008
Qatar (h) — Oct 15, 2008
Bahrain (a) — Nov 19, 2008
Japan (a) — Feb 11, 2009
Uzbekistan (h) — April 1, 2009
Qatar (a) — June 6, 2009
Bahrain (h) — June 10, 2009
Japan (h) — June 17, 2009

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Socceroos coach Pim Verbeek is intent on helping Australia qualify for the 2010 World Cup

The Socceroos are all ears at a training session in Dubai

always want to win," he says, with an air of resignation.

"It's only a short preparation — just a few days. But it's good to get the players together and find out how they're all going. It's always important to bring them together so they can play in the same system — that's one of the most important things for a national side to do. We're fortunate to have players

> "It's good to see a new generation coming up"

that allow us to play different styles and systems — that makes life much easier for a coach."

It's still too early for comparisons between the current Australian side and the one Hiddink took to Germany two years ago, as Verbeek's team is still coming together after an exodus of senior players. It makes discussions of tactics problematic, as the team remains a work in progress.

"We've brought in some young players — we had to as we lost quite a few guys after 2006. So it's good to see a new generation coming up," Verbeek says.

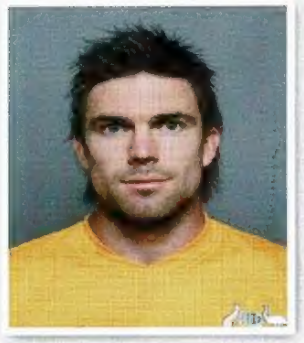
"Australians want to go on the attack — sometimes it's difficult for them to think defensively. But they can take the initiative as long as the organisation is OK. You need to find that balance."

Verbeek may hail from the Netherlands, but he knows enough about Australia to expect boisterous support at the Bafana Bafana match.

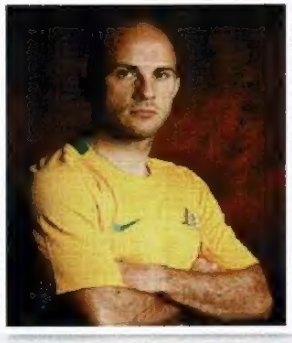
"We've had great support wherever we've gone — in the United Arab Emirates and in China," he says.

"It's great to see an airplane or bus full of Aussies arriving. The players love it — that's what they want to see."

AUSTRALIA



NAME Michael Beauchamp
BORN March 8, 1981
HEIGHT 191cm
WEIGHT 85kg
POSITION Defender
CLUB Aalborg BK (Denmark)
CAPS 17

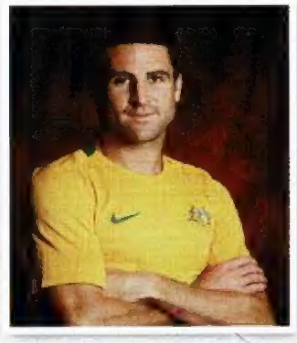


NAME Mark Bresciano
BORN February 11, 1980
HEIGHT 182cm
WEIGHT 73kg
POSITION Midfielder
CLUB US Palermo (Italy)
CAPS 42

NAME Jacob Burns
BORN April 21, 1978
HEIGHT 178cm
WEIGHT 79kg
POSITION Midfielder
CLUB Unirea Voluntari (Romania)
CAPS 6

NAME Nick Carle
BORN Novermber 23, 1981
HEIGHT 174cm
WEIGHT 78kg
POSITION Midfielder
CLUB Genclerbirgli (Turkey)
CAPS 7

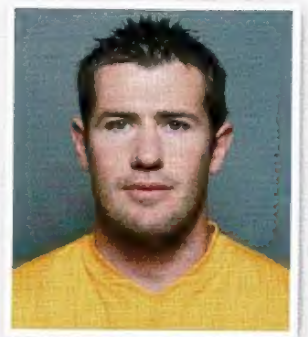
NAME David Carney
BORN November 30, 1983
HEIGHT 181cm
WEIGHT 78kg
POSITION Midfielder
CLUB Sheffield United (UK)
CAPS 12



NAME Chris Coyne
BORN December 20, 1978
HEIGHT 185cm
WEIGHT 79kg
POSITION Central Defender
CLUB Colchester United (UK)
CAPS 1

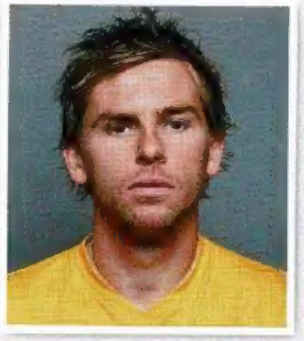
SQAUD

NAME Jason Culina
BORN August 5, 1980
HEIGHT 175cm
WEIGHT 72kg
POSITION Midfielder
CLUB PSV Eindhoven (Netherlands)
CAPS 32

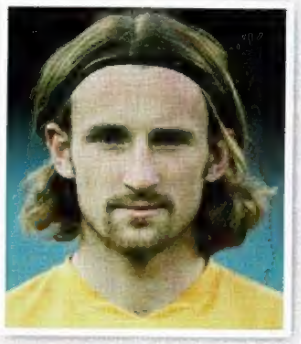


NAME Brett Emerton
BORN Feb 22, 1979
HEIGHT 185cm
WEIGHT 85kg
POSITION Defender
CLUB Blackburn Rovers (UK)
CAPS 66

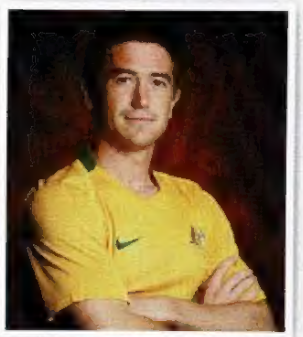
NAME Vince Grella
BORN October 5, 1979
HEIGHT 183cm
WEIGHT 79kg
POSITION Midfielder
CLUB Torino (Italy)
CAPS 35



NAME Brett Holman
BORN March 27, 1984
HEIGHT 177cm
WEIGHT 75kg
POSITION Midfielder
CLUB NEC Nijmegen (Netherlands)
CAPS 16



NAME Joshua Kennedy
BORN August 20, 1982
HEIGHT 194cm
WEIGHT 86kg
POSITION Striker
CLUB Karlsruhe (Germany)
CAPS 6



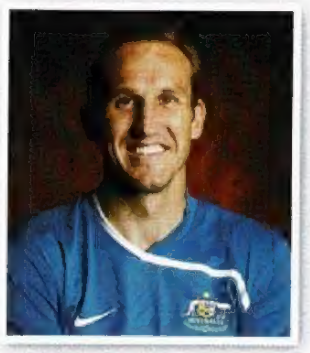
NAME Harry Kewell
BORN September 22, 1978
HEIGHT 183cm
WEIGHT 74kg
POSITION Midfielder
CLUB Galatasaray (Turkey)
CAPS 35

AUSTRALIAN SQAUD

NAME Scott McDonald
BORN August 21, 1983
HEIGHT 173cm
WEIGHT 75kg
POSITION Striker
CLUB Celtic (Scotland)
CAPS 8

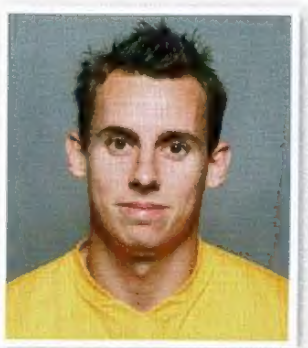
NAME Mark Milligan
BORN August 4, 1985
HEIGHT 180cm
WEIGHT 80kg
POSITION Defender
CLUB Sydney FC
CAPS 5

NAME Lucas Neill
BORN March 9, 1978
HEIGHT 183cm
WEIGHT 78kg
POSITION Defender
CLUB West Ham United (UK)
CAPS 41

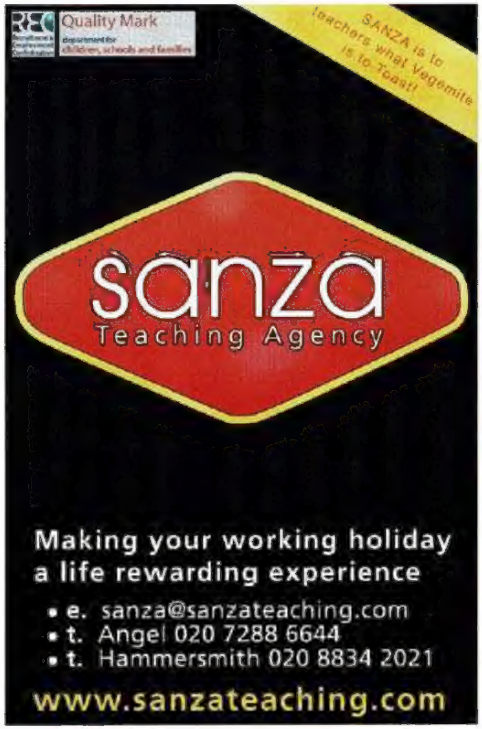


NAME Mark Schwarzer
BORN October 6, 1972
HEIGHT 193cm
WEIGHT 92kg
POSITION Goal keeper
CLUB Fulham (UK))
CAPS 58

NAME Carl Valeri
BORN August 14, 1984
HEIGHT 170cm
WEIGHT 79kg
POSITION Midfielder
CLUB Grosseto (Italy)
CAPS 10



NAME Luke Wilkshire
BORN October 2, 1981
HEIGHT 175cm
WEIGHT 72kg
POSITION Midfielder
CLUB FC Twente (Netherlands)
CAPS 25



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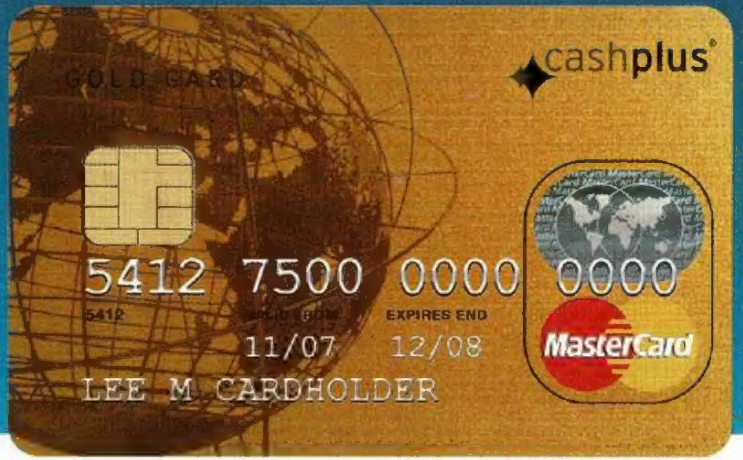

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HISTORY AWAITS

With the World Cup heading to South Africa, all eyes are on the hosts and the man who hopes to guide them to success

WORDS TOM STURROCK

As the host nation for the 2010 World Cup, South African football is about to come of age. It will be an historic event — the first time any African nation hosts football's biggest tournament.

But it hasn't been smooth sailing — far from it. Although the South African side, Bafana Bafana or "The Boys", is guaranteed a spot in the 32-side tournament, there are mounting concerns about the quality of the side that will turn out come 2010.

When Brazilain Joel Santana took on the coaching job earlier this year, he stepped into a role likely to come under intense focus over the next two years.

But Santana remains upbeat about the challenges ahead. "There will obviously

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TNT MAGAZINE

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> "When you work in football, pressure is part of the job"

be joy and tears along the way, but that is part of the football life," he says.

It is a philosophy that has already been tested by the a series of tribulations.

A fellow Brazilian, Carlos Alberto Parreira, was signed as Bafana Bafana coach on a four-year contract beginning in January 2007, but resigned in April this year, throwing a spanner in the works.

Santana gamely stepped into the breach, only for local media to question his credentials and criticise his appointment, despite his impressive track record of turning losing sides into winning ones.

Adding to the pressure is the fact Bafana Bafana will struggle to qualify for the 2010 African Cup of Nations finals, which is seen as an important stepping stone on the way to the World Cup.

A loss and a draw to Sierra Leone in June left the South African side with a mountain to climb — they now need to beat a powerful Nigerian team in September, and then win away against Equatorial Guinea. Even then, they will need other results to fall their way in order to qualify.

The friendly against Australia is part of a plan to rediscover some form ahead of those crucial fixtures.

One major asset for South Africa though, is Santana's experience.

"When you work in football, pressure is part of the job," he says. "What is important is how one handles it."

Santana is also unruffled by his side's disappointing run in the African Cup of Nations qualifiers, indicating his squad is yet to peak and calling for patience rather than panic.

"Results will be more positive once the side is settled. We need support throughout this

D.O.B. December 25, 1948
BORN Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
CLUBS
1981-86 Al wasl FC
1986-87 Vasco da Gama
1987-90 Al-Hilal
1991 America, Al-Nasr
1992-93 Vasco da Gama
1994 Bahia
1995 Fluminense
1996 Flamengo
1997 Corinthians
1997-98 Botafogo
1998 Flamengo
1999-2000 Bahia
2000-01 Vasco da Gama
2001-02 Cortiba
2002-03 Vitoria
2003 Fluminense
2004 Guarani, Internacional
2004-05 Vasco da Gama
2005 Brasiliense, Flamengo
2006-07 Vegalta Sendai
2007 Fluminense
2007-08 Flamengo

Santana led his first South African training session in May

period until the big event," Santana says.

"Our biggest challenge in recent matches has been in finishing the numerous chances that we create. We are therefore going to spend a bit of time working on this area."

Despite appearing unruffled in his new job, Santana admits the circumstances of his appointment were not ideal.

"I arrived in South Africa, three days before we were to announce the squad that would play four qualifier matches back-to-back, and eight days before the team was to report for training," he says.

"It was a challenge to try and bring the players to the same level of fitness in order for us to work properly with them, while at the same time try to get to know them."

Santana emphasises that his side is midway through a development cycle started by Parreira, and maintains improvement is just around the corner.

"It is important for us to play as many different teams as possible," he says.

"We need to expose our players to the different styles of play so that they can handle themselves well if faced with similar opponents in future. We hope to play exciting football that will keep the fans entertained while also being competitive."

> "Fans are a great motivation for the team"

Santana expects Australia to be a tough opponent, pointing to their impressive performance at the 2006 World Cup and players with European club level experience.

But he remains positive, calling on fans to get behind their team as the biggest sporting event in the world heads for Africa.

"We understand that our supporters might be disappointed by recent results, but they must keep in mind that we are going through a stage where we are building a team for 2010," he says.

"Fans are a great source of motivation for our team. That is why we regard them as the 12th member of the team."

SOUTH AFRICA

NAME Kagisho Dikgacoi
D.O.B. November 24, 1984
HEIGHT 180cm
WEIGHT 89kg
CLUB Golden Arrows FC (SA)
POSITION Midfielder
CAPS 12

NAME Bevan Fransman
D.O.B. October 31, 1983
HEIGHT 188cm
WEIGHT 76kg
CLUB Maccabi Netanya (Israel)
POSITION Defender
CAPS 10

NAME Siboniso Gaxa
D.O.B. April 6, 1984
HEIGHT 178cm
WEIGHT 68kg
CLUB Mamelodi Sundowns (SA)
POSITION Defender
CAPS 11

NAME Moeneeb Josephs
D.O.B. May 19, 1980
HEIGHT 184cm
WEIGHT 92kg
CLUB Orlando Pirates FC (SA)
POSITION Goalkeeper
CAPS 11

NAME Bongani Khumalo
D.O.B. January 6, 1986
HEIGHT 185cm
WEIGHT 79kg
CLUB Supersport Utd FC (SA)
POSITION Defender
CAPS 3

NAME Tsepo Masilela
D.O.B. May 5 , 1985
HEIGHT 174cm
WEIGHT 73kg
CLUB Maccabi Haifa (Israel)
POSITION Defender
CAPS 14

SQAUD

NAME Katlego Mashego
D.O.B. June 23, 1975
HEIGHT 173cm
WEIGHT 67kg
CLUB Supersport Utd FC (SA)
POSITION Striker
CAPS 5

NAME Thulasizwe Mbuyane
D.O.B. August 13, 1983
HEIGHT 173cm
WEIGHT 66kg
CLUB Orlando Pirates FC (SA)
POSITION Midfielder
CAPS 2

NAME Innocent Mdledle
D.O.B. December 11, 1985
HEIGHT 179cm
WEIGHT 80kg
CLUB Orlando Pirates FC (SA)
POSITION Defender
CAPS 4

NAME Teko Modise
D.O.B. December 22, 1982
HEIGHT 177cm
WEIGHT 65kg
CLUB Orlando Pirates FC (SA)
POSITION Midfielder
CAPS 22

NAME Aaron Mokoena
D.O.B. November 25, 1980
HEIGHT 183cm
WEIGHT 83kg
CLUB Blackburn Rovers (England)
POSITION Defender
CAPS 77

NAME Bryce Moon
D.O.B. April 6, 1986
HEIGHT 171cm
WEIGHT 71kg
CLUB Panathinaikos (Greece)
POSITION Defender
CAPS 8

SOUTH AFRICA SQAUD

NAME Surprise Moriri
D.O.B. March 20 1980
HEIGHT 173cm
WEIGHT 72kg
CLUB Mamelod. Sundowns (SA)
POSITION Midfielder
CAPS 20

NAME Clifford Ngobeni
D.O.B. June 27 1987
HEIGHT 165cm
WEIGHT 70kg
CLUB Ajax Cape Town (SA)
POSITION Midfielder
CAPS 0

NAME Steven Pienaar
D.O.B. March 3, 1982
HEIGHT 173cm
WEIGHT 73kg
CLUB Everton FC (England)
POSITION Midfielder
CAPS 36

NAME Macbeth Sibaya
D.O.B. November 25, 1977
HEIGHT 173cm
WEIGHT 79kg
CLUB Rubin Kazan FC (Russia)
POSITION Midfielder
CAPS 40

NAME Siphiwe Tshabalala
D.O.B. September 25 1984
HEIGHT 169cm
WEIGHT 67kg
CLUB Kaizer Chiefs FC (SA)
POSITION Midfielder
CAPS 17

NAME Excellent Walaza
D.O.B. April 8, 1987
HEIGHT 173cm
WEIGHT 66kg
CLUB Orlando Pirates FC (SA)
POSITION Striker
CAPS 2

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Socceroos goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer prevents a goal

South Africa's Lance Davids at training

GAME ON

It's the Socceroos against Bafana Bafana — two experts run their eyes over the sides

WORDS TOM STURROCK

Australia and South Africa are two very different sides facing different sets of pressures.

The world is watching South Africa as they race to be ready for the 2010 World Cup, both on and off the field.

Australia, meanwhile, face growing expectations at home. Their performances at the 2006 World Cup gave the sport an enormous boost — failure to qualify again would be a major disappointment.

Both sides are coached by experienced managers, Pim Verbeek and Joel Santana, both of whom are new in the job after replacing higher profile countrymen.

So it's hard to know what to expect from this clash, but we've picked the brains of two expert commentators, who agree that whatever the result, both countries have some big tests ahead.

Fikile Moya is the associate sports editor of South Africa's *Mail and Guardian*, and, like many fans of Bafana Bafana, he is looking

POSSIBLE LINE-UPS

ahead to 2010 with a mixture of excitement and anxiety.

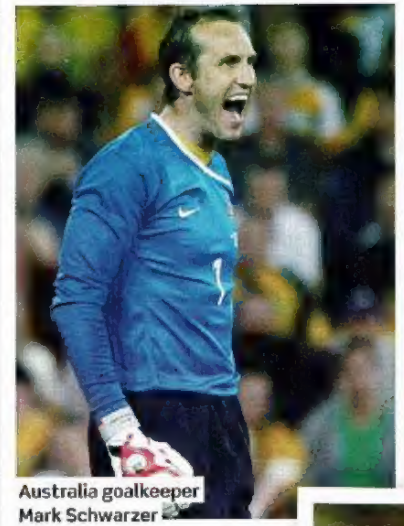
"South Africa has been a goldfish in a bowl, politically and for other reasons, for a long time, and our football is in a stage of great depression," Moya says.

"There are chances that we might not make the cut for Angola Africa Cup of Nations in early 2010. The tournament is regarded here as a real measure for how far we have come and whether there are realistic chances of making it to the second round of the World Cup. So even winning against Australia is important, more for psychological than purely football reasons."

> "South Africa has been a goldfish in a bowl ... for a long time"

Australia's Brett Emerton

As is so often the case in sport, the coach carries the can for a team's poor


Australia goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer

Marco Bresciano

Harry Kewell

performances — even if, as in Santana's case, he has only been in charge for a few months. Moya acknowledges Santana has been judged harshly.

"There is an unfortunate tendency in South Africa to think that someone is good if their's is a name you have heard before," he says.

"The fact that Santana was recommended by compatriot and World Cup-winning coach Carlos Alberto Parreira gave him some respite. But with the results going the wrong way for the team in recent games, the sceptics are feeling vindicated."

South Africa has enough talent to suggest they will improve.

With star striker Benni McCarthy, who plays for English side Blackburn Rovers, often absent, South Africa has been forced to uncover new stars. McCarthy's Rovers teammate Aaron Mokoena will be expected to pull the strings from the midfield, while striker Steven Pienaar, now on a three-year deal at Everton, bears the brunt of scoring.

"Pienaar has one of the best football brains in the business," Moya says.

"The question, or rather the hope, will be that he unleashes the potential his compatriots know he has. Our young goalkeeper, Itumeleng Khune, has also had an outstanding year. In the two pre-season matches, against Manchester United and Orlando Pirates, he was named man-of-the match and got a special mention from United manager Alex Ferguson."

The Australian camp already has one eye on the first World Cup qualifier — Uzbekistan in September. SBS pundit Philip Micallef insists the Socceroos are good enough to repeat their 2006 qualification, but says steady improvement is also required.

"It's a good side, but we haven't improved — Hiddink had us playing beautiful football.

> Kewell is definitely the one who makes things happen

Teko Modise, of South Africa

Steve Pienaar

At the moment, we still lose the ball too easily. We're yet to see the best of this team," he says.

"But the beauty of playing in Asia is that we can lose once or twice and still fight back into contention. We don't just play Uruguay or Argentina once in four years. It's unreasonable to expect a team to be at their best in those circumstances."

Micallef believes Verbeek will be looking for greater cohesion through the midfield and greater ruthlessness around goals.

"We haven't been creating enough chances — that's the biggest problem so far," he says.

"It used to be the other way around — we used to create a lot of chances without being able to finish. Now we don't create as many, which is probably worse.

"I always believe that having one striker isn't necessarily a negative — it depends on how you use your midfielders. So it will be interesting to see how Australia manage that — whether they use two strikers, or go with one and then try to push their midfielders up to create chances."

As far as the line-up goes, Micallef believes Australia's best team virtually picks itself these days. Having a settled side is a bonus for a coach, provided the results are favourable. Otherwise, the lack of options becomes a liability.

"Kewell is definitely the one who makes things happen, and Grella is the other star in the middle," Micallef says. "Then you have Brett Emerton, who will play either in defence or midfield. I don't think some people realise how good a player Emerton has grown into."

Micallef is bullish about Australia's World Cup chances, but emphasises that the Socceroos must start working towards that goal immediately, especially as the players who take the field against South Africa will probably be charged with cementing a spot for 2010.

"It's the one real opportunity for Pim Verbeek to get a good look at these guys before they take on Uzbekistan," he says.

"I would imagine the side for that match will be similar to the one that plays South Africa — there may be a few alterations."

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